

Winter Fest? An Inside View

Text by: Craig Stutzky
Photos by: Bill Dyhouse

Sun., January 17. 6:05am.
The snow is quickly melting into oblivion under a steady, warm breeze (which turns mysteriously into a cold, chilling wind once my clothes are soaking wet later in the day). Deranged mountain bikers from all over Michigan are dragging their bodies out of nice warm, dry beds to make their way to the site of Winter Fest '88. God only knows why.

9:34am. The first participants arrive. "Where's the hot chocolate!" they demand. The electricity keeps fritzing out. Only one electrical fire (so far). "Where's the toilet?" they ask. Still being installed. I say a silent prayer. Looks like a good day for Murphy.

9:57am. Dozens of MB riders swamp the registration table.



Where are all these people coming from? Don't they realize this is some of the nastiest weather in centuries? They seem oblivious. Their minds are set on racing. Nothing matters but the adrenalin in their blood. "Let's go ride the course!" they cry as they tear off into the woods.

10:45am. Riders attack the registration table in gangs. Chaos threatens. "Where's the toilet?" Still being installed. (I consider buckets. Idea is nixed by Wendy).

11:20am. The official group ride leaves to survey the course.

11:50am. Riders covered from head to toe in mud appear in the doorway with large grins on their faces.



(Don German demonstrates the hydroplane two-step)

"Great Course! Give me food! Gimme hot chocolate! When's the race start? Where's the toilet?" (installed, finally, by the grace of God...with a lot of help from Dale and Co.).

12:10pm. Parking lot resembles a Louisiana swamp. Two sub-compacts are lost entirely. No body count yet.

(continued on page 5)

WINTER FEST '88

Date.....January 17, 1988

Place.....Dale & Wendy German's
Belding, MI.

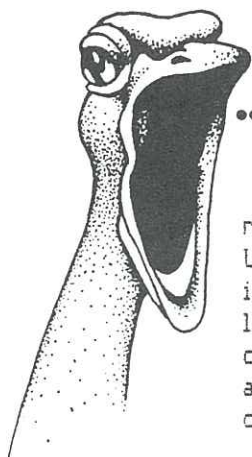
Organizers....Dale & Wendy German,
Craig Stutzky

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BRB Editorial



...And Justice For All

They are famous words and they represent a noble ideal. Unfortunately, putting such ideas into practice, even on the ordinary, lowly level of mountain bike races, can be very difficult. (Try organizing a race... one often needs the wisdom of Solomon).

One of the sore points in mountain bike racing today is how women racers are treated. In a couple of Michigan races, women have been given prizes worth a fraction of those awarded to men in the same class level and place. Such an act is grossly insulting to these athletes. Perhaps the race promoters will allow these women a corresponding discount on their entry fees? But even that would not be enough. Consider how much money is spent travelling to the race site, food, lodging, bike parts, etc. Not to mention how much time and effort these riders have spent training for the race...and finally the effort they put into riding the race itself. Women racers push themselves to their limits the same as male racers. Just because women "usually" aren't as fast as most men (and SOME women beat a good number of the men to the finish line) isn't any reason to treat them as second class citizens.

Sure, their classes may be smaller, but if women were treated more equitably, more of them would turn out for races and the overall level of competition AND fun would increase greatly.

We believe that first place in ANY class is worth a certain amount of honor and prize money. The depth of prizes awarded should also be comparable between classes. And finally, the prizes awarded should be appropriate to a mountain bike racer and related to biking. Women who ride their guts out over an incredibly tough course and manage to place well in their class should never have to face the sexist insult of being awarded a facial mud pack...especially when many prizes worth a great deal more are given away in a general drawing. Let's properly reward those mountain bike enthusiasts who raced FIRST, and take care of the crowds later.

We at the BRB wish to applaud those race promoters who have treated women fairly at their events and encourage them to continue doing so. Perhaps it's only a dream, but with some cooperation from the men, a day may come when the women will fill out a large part of the field at mountain bike races...much to the benefit of us all.

Welcome Back To The BRB

Here we are again, Michigan's one and only mountain biking newsletter, bringing you all the news that's "fat" to print. In case you didn't know, the BRB is FREE to anyone who is on our mailing list. Something new: we will now be asking bike shops and clubs who wish to receive more than one copy to contribute 50 cents/copy to help cover printing and distribution costs. (They may charge up to 50 cents per copy at their discretion). Our advertisers will continue to receive 10 free copies of each issue. Of course, we welcome (and I mean REALLY welcome) all donations and we will be listing donors every issue in our "Friends of BRB" column.

Also, we do NOT publish every month, contrary to some vicious rumors (we have full time jobs you know). We will be publishing as often as we get enough material together for a decent size newsletter (maybe every three months, but don't quote us on that). So look for the next BRB around the end of May.

Another vicious rumor we'd like to correct is that the BRB is a one-man show. WRONG! Everyone who contributes material is absolutely vital to this publication's existence and nothing would get published without Bonnie Alsum's help.

We need your help to make the BRB a success. Namely your articles, information, pictures, ideas, cartoons, letters to the ed, you name it. Articles on favorite trails (with map and pictures would be nice) are especially welcome. And we always need pictures from the MB events going on. We give bylines to all who want them (sorry, no money, just fame). Please send us stuff...it will make the BRB much more interesting and lively publication; besides, we get tired of reading our own material all the time.

Friends of BRB

We gratefully acknowledge the following people for their financial support of this newsletter:

Tom Bell, Jr.
Lauryl Lefebvre
James Potter

*Who do I write a check out
to for a donation?*

Make checks or moneyorders out to the BENT RIM BUGLE.

BRB Staff

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Swiss Valley Fat Tire Fall Fest



Text by: Rick LaRocca
Photos by: Joel Groendal

Swiss Valley Ski Area in Jones, Michigan was host to its first Mountain Bike event on November 7 & 8, 1987. On the 7th, riders were treated to a fun ride through nearby state land. The event was organized by ATB'er and SV employee Randy Shantz. The racing took place during the ski area's annual Fall Fest, and gave many spectators their first view of our great sport. Local sponsors enthusiastically provided over \$1,000 in cash and merchandise to award the top five finishers in each class.

The weekend started with Saturday's registration and fun ride. About 30 riders gathered for a trek through nearby logging and hiking trails. The ride began with a log-strewn downhill that immediately got the adrenalin flowing. After a few hilly miles of scenic woods, the pack seemed to be shrinking. This was due mostly to equipment failure. The short ride claimed two bent wheels, a fried hub, and a tweaked fork, so the riders headed back to SV. At the ski area, they pre-ran the cross country course that was set for Sunday's race.

The course wound through the ski area, up and down the valley's most challenging terrain. Total length of the course was 3.5 miles, and it was 100% rideable. Riders ranging from beginner to professional found the course challenging and well planned. After a few trail laps, the competitors filed out, discussing strategy and carbo loading for Sunday's race.

Sunday morning's sky looked bleak. Rain? No way. The racers gathered early and pre-ran the course for the last time. Despite a soggy Saturday night, the course was in great condition for racing.

The start/finish area was in the valley, so the racers first headed around a pond and up a deceptively steep hill. To avoid congestion on the course, the race was run in two stages. First Time racers were grouped with the Sport Class and the Masters, who did two laps. The Experts and Pros raced together, completing four laps.

First to cross the line in the seven mile race was Sport rider Kelly Dermody, who went home with the grand prize, a wind trainer provided by the Tube Tender. Kelly's time was 24:30. Winner of the First-Time class was Jim Stark, just over a minute behind with a time of 27:00.

The grueling four lap race was won by Steve Hammett who covered the distance in 45:50 and beat the Pros in the process. The first Pro racer to cross the finish line was Fred Anderson with a time of 46:22. After the race, Pro and Expert classes were combined, the top three places were awarded cash and merchandise prizes.

The competition was fantastic. As the racers streaked up and down the circuit, the many spectators were treated to their first taste of ATB action. Their reaction was all smiles no matter where they viewed the race. Some of the hottest racing took place on the long downhill that ran underneath a triple chair-lift.

All the hours put into race organization and course layout really paid off when the exhausted riders began asking about future events at Swiss Valley. Randy Shantz hopes to hold as many as four events in '88, expanding the competition with a trials event and possibly a dual slalom race. Dates are not finalized, so be sure to check the BENT RIM BUGLE for the newest in fat tire news.

Looking back, the Fall Fest was a great way to spend an autumn weekend in Southern Michigan. Everywhere you looked, there were muddy smiles of satisfaction. We hope to see you next year! Happy trails!

NOTE: Please do not ride on the slopes at Swiss Valley. We want to be nice to the ground so we can use the area for more events!



Swiss Valley Race Results

First-Time Class

1. Jim Stark	25.40
2. Richard Austin	26.12
3. Jim Henderson	26.21
4. Kevin Fulmer	27.56
5. Chris Cyrul	27.57
6. Eric White	?????
7. Tim Burden	31.28
8. Jon Brant	31.36
9. Ryan Clark	31.40
10. Michael Keen	31.55
11. Bill Fry	32.20
12. Mark Copenhagen	33.33
13. Bob Perry	33.45
14. Thomas Thome	33.59
15. Tony Balzano	34.25
16. Ron Worden	35.48
17. Tom Lorentz	36.22
18. John Joorsens Jr.	36.51
19. John Joorsens Sr.	38.24
20. Thomas Duzgan	39.56
21. Kevin Dale	40.47
22. Richard Cyrul	40.47
23. Ken Osburn	43.10
24. Jodi Fjeseth	44.56
25. C.J. Christopherson	45.15
26. Tom McBon	45.27

Sport Class

1. Kelly Dermody	24.30
2. Greg Karbowski	24.52
3. Joel Bunting	24.55
4. Bob Hedrick	25.20
5. Jeff Faber	25.50
6. Phillip Huyghe	28.33
7. Greg Cole	29.00
8. Dale German	29.28
9. George Simons Jr.	29.40
10.*Kelly Dermody	30.02
11. Jeff Voorhis	30.10
12. Tim DeYoung	30.20
13. Reiner Richter	30.29
14. Michael Seaman	30.45
15. Ted Everly	32.35
16. Wendy German	33.50
17. Keith Bowman	35.25
18. Jim Lunden	36.21
19. James Bradclock	38.18

Masters Class

1. Lenny Keen	27.00
2. Tim Walswart	29.30
3. Tom Nell	29.45

Combined Expert And Pro Classes

1. Steve Hammett	45.50
2. Fred Anderson	46.22 P.
3. Tom Campbell	46.54
4. Dan Packman	47.33
5. Mike Nickoloff	48.00
6. Don Camp	48.22
7. Bryan Greene	49.30
8. Martin Minka	50.20 P
9. Brent Walk	51.10
10. Glen Kellam	51.11 P
11. Craig Gietzen	51.31
12. Tim Feldkemp	53.31
13. Tim DeYoung	54.38
14. Kirk Briggs	54.45 P
15. Mike Clark	56.29
16. Eric Slaughter	56.56
17. John Bowens	57.45
18. Dave "CRASH" Bradock	---P

NOTE: "P" denotes Pro Class, all others are Expert Class Racers.

* Either there are two people named Kelly Dermody or this is an error on the race results we recieved. Ed.



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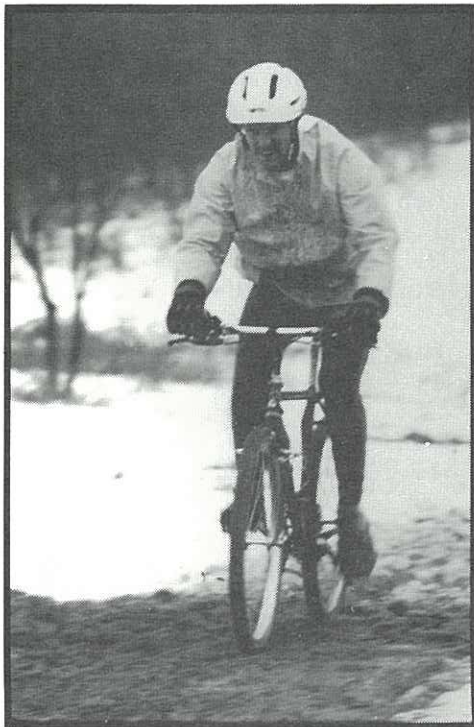
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(WINTER FEST Cont. from pg. 1)

I start Pando video to distract the natives inside.

12:25pm. Over 70 people have registered. Good Lord. Chaos threatens. Riders are getting restless. Better get the show on the road.

12:30pm. Pre-race meeting begins. All eyes are focused on you. Say something intelligent! Oh well...



Both rain and mud,
Had tried their best,
But neither could
Stop WinterFest!

12:45pm. Racers line up by the pond, according to class. One lap for everyone...probably should be longer. Rain is coming down cold and steady now. Riders wait for the countdown. Ready, set, GO! The experts leave.

12:46pm. GO! Novice riders take off.

12:47pm. GO! Beginners, women, masters/vets, 18 & under begin.

12:48pm. Everyone's gone but Don and me. Spectators retreat to warm house and hot food...wimps.

12:50pm. Standing in the cold rain...waiting. Begin to seriously consider joining the wimps. Go to get the gates to funnel riders at the finish line. They are missing! Great!

12:58pm. First two riders cross the line. Amazingly fast for this course. No wonder...they took a short cut. First word of a broken tape marking the course surfaces. I begin to calculate the odds of my escaping to Peru before anyone notices.

1:00pm. Too late, more riders coming in. I'm doomed. Race numbers are covered with mud. Very helpful. Riders are covered with mud... and not tired enough. More laps next year, I decide.

1:05pm. Riders coming in fast and furious. Race result sheets getting soaked. One of the stop watches shorts out in the rain. Stories of various routes taken on the course abound. I feign deafness and pray for mercy.

1:20pm. Last rider across. (Couch potato, perhaps, but a brave one.) Let's get out of the rain!

1:25pm. FEEDING FRENZY! 75 hungry, muddy, wet, cold, tired, happy mountain bikers are crammed into the upstairs of the German's house, all intent upon one thing...EATING! (and getting warm and dry). The usual post-race banter is going full force and tall tales grow by the minute.

1:45pm. I try to convince riders to go back out into the rain. Am promptly ignored.

2:00pm. I try again, with a little more luck. The ice pond races begin. Heats of 5, 3 laps, winner moves on to the final race. Unstudded class first. Absolutely hilarious. Some spectacular maneuvers. The crowd cheers the award-winning wipe outs. One rider does an entire 360 on a straightaway. The ice is covered with water (specially arranged by the race organizers to help break the fall of riders). A strange looking man in a bearskin coat and on a beach cruiser annihilates the competition (unstudded). The crowd is baffled and delighted. Fellow racers are red in the face. The old man had something to teach the whipper snappers on their high-zoot bikes.

(continued on page 7)

First Timer: Behind the Scenes

by Ruth Gilman

When I was first asked by the Silk City Cyclists to help out at Winter Fest, I wasn't sure what to expect. I have never been to a mountain bike race before and I must admit it sounded exciting!

It was the first "race" put on by Silk City and the BRB, but you wouldn't have known it. It was very organized, not to mention a great time. I had a lot of people compliment us on the race results. The "times" were posted on a big board a short time after the race. A lot of people said they hardly ever get their times at a race. It was nice to know how they did, not only in their own class, but overall.

Mother Nature didn't cooperate that day. She turned Winter Fest, into Slush and Mud Fest! But watching everyone from behind the scenes, it was clear the bikers loved it even more.

I think that everyone liked the ice pond races the best. Well, not as much as all the neat prizes (for the winners), but close.

I didn't ride, so for me the best part was after the races and before the prizes. Everyone was sitting around watching a video of the race (taped by Ray Jones). It was so comfortable, just like one big happy mountain bike family, watching their favorite show. That should be credited to Dale and Wendy German. Their efforts and especially opening up their home to all of us made it a very special day. One we won't soon forget.

There was lots of food and fun for everyone. It was a real good time. Winter Fest "88" was GREAT! Winter Fest "89" promises to be even more FUN!! This first timer is impressed!

Winter Fest '88 Race Results

CROSS COUNTRY RACE

Men's Beginner

1. Tom Lorentz	14:38
2. Stein Slette	15:41
3. Patrick Dueweke	17:03
4. Matt Jennings	17:44
5. Sean Carey	17:51
6. Douglas Nelson	18:11
7. John Chase	18:41
8. Mike Teel	19:05
9. Jonathon King	20:42
10. Tim Gavitt	20:57
11. Rod Lowell	21:26
12. Steven Virkstis	21:28
13. Gary Nelson	22:30
14. Kevin Lezar	22:47
15. Douglas Cook	23:16
16. Rick Cyrul	25:34
17. Skip Trofatter	25:57

Men's Novice

1. Terence Miller	15:45
2. Richard Austin	16:20
3. John Runberg	16:22
4. Jim Lunden	16:35
5. Jeff Faber	16:39
6. Chris Cyrul	16:40
7. Dan Dubes	17:11
8. Michael Clark	17:16
9. Mark Smith	17:24
10. Eric Slaughter	17:25
11. Michael Seaman	17:28
12. Tom Burden	18:09
13. Mike Salava	18:41
14. Tom Smith	18:48
15. Kevin Kent	18:50
16. Rod Foltz	19:40
17. Rick LaRocca	19:54

Men's Expert

Bart Griffith	10:15*
Gary Stephenson	10:23*
1. Martin Minka	13:20
2. Kelly Dermody	13:28
3. George Simons Jr.	13:30
4. Larry Kaiser	13:37
5. Craig Gietzen	14:04
6. Brent Walk	14:33
7. Doug German	16:02
8. Kirk Briggs	19:23

*Due to major short-cut.

Men's Masters & Vets

1. Tom Nell	16:00
2. Dale German	17:11
3. Rienhold Cordella	17:27
4. Rob Norris	18:40
5. Walt Shultze	18:45

Men's Nov. 18 & Under

1. Bob Lawson	19:34
2. Jamison German	21:59
3. Steven Lowell	22:49

Women's Beginner

1. Pamela Davidson	22:26
2. Marji Super	23:20
3. Carolyn Howson	24:01
4. Sue Walk	24:50
5. Jennifer McClellan	28:04

Couch Potato (non-competitive)

1. Dennis Schmucker	23:54
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ICE POND RACES

King of the Ice (ProAm)

1. Walt "Bearskin" Schultze

Men's Beginner Unstudded

1. Pat Dueweke
2. Don German

Men's Beginner Studded

1. Tom Nell
2. Mike Salava
3. Mike Teel

Men's Advanced Unstudded

1. Kirk Briggs

Men's Advanced Studded

1. Martin Minka
2. Kelly Dermody
3. Tom Smith
4. Chris Cyrul
5. Rod Foltz

Women's Unstudded

1. Pamela Davidson
2. Heather Prince

(Note: More than one route was taken by racers in the cross country event...partly due to Martin Minka running through the surveyor's tape at a crucial turn...so please keep that in mind when perusing the above race results. Remember, we were all out to have a good time...right?)

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(WINTERFEST Cont. from pg. 5)

2:15pm. Finally figure out how to hold umbrella, clipboard, pen AND megaphone all at the same time.

2:30pm. Studded races begin. These guys can MOVE! Not as funny perhaps, but much tighter competition.

3:00pm. Still raining. No feeling left in my feet. Ice races nearly done. Race result sheets soaked, again.

3:10pm. Back inside again for MORE EATING! People are changing clothes to get warm and dry...everyone except me. Trying to organize prize list (not too easy since half the prizes arrived this morning). Pray the food holds out. This crowd looks ravenous. Better show them the video Ray took during the day's activities.

3:40pm. Award ceremony begins. Plenty of prizes given out (45 prizes to 75 riders, not bad). I try to remember all the sponsors, but forget one or two (brain is mega-fried by now). Bent Rim Award given for best wipeout. Couch Potato Award to last rider in cross country (name withheld to protect the BRB staff from retaliation). A few prizes for the crowd. People seem to have enjoyed themselves. I'm just thankful there are no lynch mobs. Everyone boogies, for parts known and unknown...some as far as Ann Arbor, Detroit, Traverse City and Muncie, IN.

4:15pm. Clean-up. Things are quiet now. Hard to believe that six weeks worth of planning and work are all over so quickly.

5:00pm. Monstrous snow storm hits with great fury...just in time to miss making Winter Fest a winter event. Oh well. There's always next year.

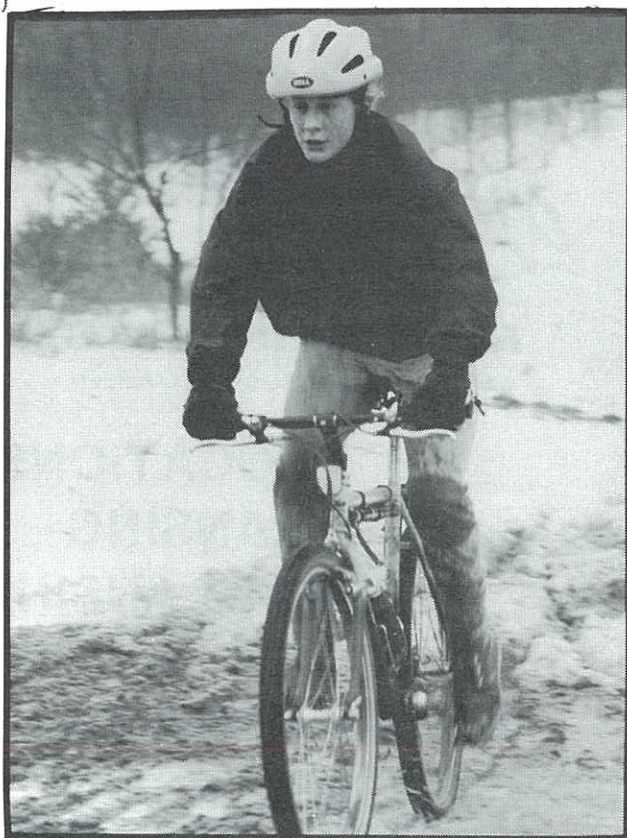
(Ed. The above times and happenings are only meant to be rough approximations. The author's notoriously bad memory and state of mind that day should be allowed for.)



(Top photo: Walt Shultze, the man in the bear skin coat in the background, beat both the studded and unstudded beginners on his unstudded, skinny-tired, Department Store 5-speed! So much for the big buck, high tech advantage...)

(Above: Getting mean!)

(Left: Sloshing through the mud was one of Winter Fest's special memories.)



THE HOT SET-UP



by Steve Pruett

Hi there, and welcome the HOT SET-UP! This issue's feature bike is Joel Groendal's factory Sling-Shot. For those of you who don't know Joel, he's recently joined the expert ranks after a successful '87 season in the sport class. He is also an accomplished frame painter and has a keen eye for components blending, reliability and performance. The selections he's made for his bike reflect this. Such as...

CONTROLS: Staight Cro-mo BMX seatpost as handlebar, Tioga stem, Suntour XC brake and shift levers (shift levers are non-indexed and inverted.) AME hand grips.

The BMX seatpost for handlebars and the inverted XC shifters are real standouts in Joel's component selection. Joel uses the seatpost for handlebars, because he likes the strength and lack of any bend. He runs non-index shifters, because he feels that index shifting is to much hassle to keep in adjustment. Joel uses his shifters in an inverted position so that he can shift without loosening his grip on the bars while riding over rough ground.

HEADSET: Tioga sealed steel.

SEAT & SEATPOST: ISCA tornado seat, Interloc seatpost (no quick-release on the seatpost.)

BRAKES: Shimano Deore XT brake set, U-brake back, Cant. front.

CRANKSET: Bullseye 178mm, Sugino round chainrings in 28-36-48 tooth size, Suntour XC Compe pedals.

DERAILEURS: Shimano Deore XT front and rear, with Bullseye sealed pulleys.

CHAIN: Sedis.

FREEWHEEL: Shimano 600EX, 13 to 26.

WHEELS: Bullseye hubs, stainless steel 14 gauge spokes laced to Specialized GX26 rims.

TIRES: Specialized Ground Control S.

Joel's frame is a very limited production single spring and cable model (only two currently exist). Both the upper cable end and spring are housed inside the brace connecting the upper and lower tubes of the front triangle. The cable extends through the lower tube to an anchor atop the bottom bracket. This refinement has produced a more streamlined appearance and lowered the weight of the frame as well. With current components, Joel's bike weights in at an estimated 27 1/2 pounds. Other than a slightly longer and steeper front end (72 1/2 degrees, as opposed to the stock 70), the angles and dimensions are the same as the production model (72 degree seat tube, 42 inch wheel base, and 16 3/8 inch chain stays). Construction is of Tig Welded (welds filleted and smoothed) 4130 True Temper Cro-Mo with a Tange Unicrown fork, all topped off with a pleasing yellow and white diagonal fade paint job.

If your fat-tire bike is trick, pretty to look at, or just plain unique and you want to share it with folks in other areas, send pictures, a specification sheet, along with your name, address, phone number, and SASE (if you wish any of the materials returned), to the HOT SET-UP, % B.R.B., 717 W. State St., Belding, Mi. 48809

CHECK US OUT!

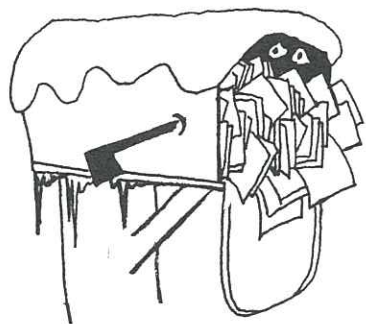
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Letters to the Editors

We LOVE getting mail! (The response from the first mailing was incredible...we could only publish a fraction of the letters to the editor). Keep 'em coming! Your letters are a great morale booster and are one of the main reasons we keep doing the BRB. Let us know what you think of the newsletter, and feel free to suggest any improvements or share with us any brilliant ideas you have for new features. Or just spout off about mountain bike issues in general (like NORBA, or USCF, or maybe horse-pucky on the trails). You get what we mean...

Without doubt, the Hottest Off-Road Magazine around!

Lauryl Lafeyvre
Carbondale, IL.

Mountain Bikes...What a name! Here we are in the middle of flatsville, riding Mountain Bikes. Once upon a time, someone started going down a big hill with a bunch of buddies, pushing elbows at each other dicing for the hot line at the next corner.

Then came Owosso, a HOT BED of flatland activity. In 1980 I moved back here from California and started making 5 speed cruisers out of Schwinn cantilever frames. In the spring of 1981, the first cruiser Poker Run was held. There have been six others since then and the participation has always been about 50 people or so. We use to get the Lansing and Pontiac guys, also many others and were very happy. But we never got permission and probably couldn't get it to go on the land. We have our Poker Run though. Now when we have a run, we keep it for the locals so we don't end up with 100 or more "Mountain Bikers".

What I am trying to say here is that there are participants out there waiting for a non-racing event, but still something to win and prizes to give away. We need to feed this group! But we need a place to hold this function and not get in trouble for it, like here in the "O". Let's see someone out there put on something more than a race. I would be glad to help put on the event like this and your club or civic group could make a few dollars besides. Sorry, but I gotta get off the soap box, the air is getting thin up here.

Rick, "House of Wheels"
Owosso, Mi.

Great Idea - Let's catch up with California ATB enthusiasts.
Chuck McCarter
Davison, Mi.

Wow! Pictures and everything! Great first issue. Read every word front to back. It's exciting being on the start of a publication that can't help but grow. Once you ride a mountain bike you're hooked. Looking forward to issue No. 2 and riding through the snow.

Christopher Smit
Plainwell, Mi.

The Pando Race was great, I had a lot of fun. The course was great, but Vets are not that old! I think 3 loops would be better! See ya next year.

Thierry Werderits
Grand Rapids, Mi.

It's great to see a newsletter like this! It can only happen in Michigan. In Illinois we have nothing. Now I can find out about events in Michigan, the state I love. Keep it coming.

Gary Richter
Elk Grove, IL.

This is a great! I promise to only buy from the people who advertize in the BRB!

James Arnold
Bay City, Mi.

Question: Why are Michigan race organizers afraid of timed downhill runs? Downhills are a big part of the reason I got involved in fat tire bicycles ten years ago. The races I've raced have more than enough climbing thank you. I know climbing is a big part of racing also. Glen Arbor's Lookout hill would be a perfect place to start a timed downhill. Oh well, keep the BRB coming, I like what I see.

Charly Kincaid
Owosso, Mi.
(Ed. Well? How 'bout it you race promoters?)

Thanks for the Bugle. I really enjoyed it. I think this will be a great paper/newsletter. There definitely is a market out there. I think the main emphasis should be areas where we can ride but still preserve them for future generations. Mountain biking should be an alternative to seeing the great outdoors versus using motor vehicles and hiking. If we abuse the land, we may lose it.

The race results were great. I was 23rd in the 14 mile Homestead Sleeping Bear Race. It was my first race and I loved it! I'm a national ranked runner and mountain biking combines a great workout with the great outdoors.

John Steinberg
Ludington, Mi.

Look for the "Cycling Saddlemen/ Henry Ford Hospital/International Bike Shop" Team in 1988!
James C. Potter
Livonia, Mi.

(continued on page 10)

(LETTERS TO THE EDITORS cont.)

After receiving my first issue of the BRB, I have but one thing to say: What took you so long??

I eagerly ripped through the pages and was delighted with what I found inside, I can't wait to get the upcoming issues!

P.S. Just a message to certain "roadies" (road bike die-hards) ---See, "dumb" mountain bikers CAN read and write!!

Scott Fraser

WMU, Kalamazoo, Mi.

This (the BRB) is A GREAT IDEA!! Please keep the presses rolling and THANK YOU for spelling my name correctly.

Mark S. Copenhagen

Davisburg, Mi.

Races were just like you described in articles! Keep up results and events. We're all Potawatami Trail Bike Geeks!

Matt Daly

Pinckney, Mi.

Many thanks to you guys and gals for taking the time and putting out the energy to publish a much needed newsletter. I moved back up here from Texas late this last summer and really had a hard time finding any information concerning races and rides. There aren't too many people on the trails around here (Tawas area) but I've got some trails I use. I'd be glad to share them with other riders. Well hey, thanks again and hope to see you on the trail sometime.

Mike Anschuetz

Tawas City, Mi.

Great Newsletter! Keeps us in Northern Ontario in touch with races and happenings in Michigan. We had a couple of races in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario this year. With your newsletter, we'll be able to reach a greater audience for next year.

Jim Heise

St. Joseph Island, Ontario

Thank you for Volume 1, Number 1 of the BRB. Having been in attendance at both the Sleeping Bear Classic and Pando II, (of course rooting for my son Matt) I find the articles on the events a nice "journal".

Keep up the good reporting on the mountain bike events and please keep the BRB coming to my address.

Lloyd A. Rich

Wyoming, Mi.

Glad to see the Mtn. Bike craze in Mi. - and a newsletter to prove it! I always feel like a kid again when I'm on fat tires!!

Mindy Wood

Gaylord, Mi.

What a great idea! Now I can really feel a part of Mt. Biking in Mi. It's too much fun to be a solitary sport! Now it doesn't have to be.

Deb Oswald

Freeland, Mi.

GREAT NEWSLETTER! I'm a trials rider and my biggest concern is finding out about meets that include bicycle trials in time to attend. I hope you will have a calendar of events. Keep up the good work.

Robert Long

Portage, Mi.

Fantastic Idea! This sport really needs a newsletter like this to help it along. Best wishes for a long and rosy future!

Gary Nelson

Muskegon, Mi.

Good effort on the newsletter. Nice to read about local events and happenings. I would like to note one correction in the 2nd Annual Sleeping Bear race, my time in the mens 35-45, was 1:0:55.

Reni Dengel

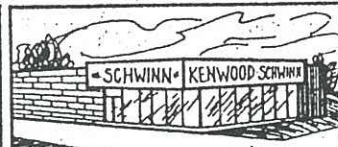
Traverse City, Mi.

Winter Fest '88. Thanx so much for the totally unexpected prize. I looked at the unofficial results on a clipboard and my time was one of the lowest, but I did not think it was 3rd. All right, thanx for a primo event! Everyone was special at your race - especially the grey fur coated man who won the unstudded ice race! Great food, tough course (the hose was a good idea). I'm looking forward to your next events! Keep the Bugle Blowin'!

John Runberg

Muncie, In.

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SHARK! What is it... and why should I care?

by Michael "JAWS" Clark

As undisputed ruler of the Ragged Edge Off-Road Team and much-disputed inventor of "SHARK", I was prevailed upon by Mr. Stutzky to explain, to those of you who remain among the uninitiated, what the hell SHARK is. (He also promised riches & treasure, which to date, remain "in the mail".)

I suspect you've all played it, unwittingly perhaps, while waiting for that chronically late member of your group to arrive. Circling aimlessly around the parking lot, adrenalin rising, anticipation increasing, thinking of the ride to come, naturally you start trying to make your buddies fall over. (What are friends for?) That's the essence of SHARK - making other riders put a foot down (Good) or fall over (Much, MUCH, BETTER!) while preventing the same thing from happening to you. Add some boundaries that you can't cross, and Viola! basic SHARK. Each Dab/Crash etc. is a point. When you reach five points (or 10 or whatever) you're out. Last one alive wins. Simple eh? Too simple for the R.E.O.R.T., so we promptly came up with more rules to confuse things (maybe I should run for office). For instance: "The Innocent Bystander Rule" - being knocked over by someone in the process of being knocked over should not result in a point. (I say "should" because as the "knockee" always have to argue with the "knocker" on this point.) There's more - but who cares. There are also variations on the basic game, the most prevalent being what we call "full-contact" SHARK. "F.C.S." owes it's origins to Marin County's "Derby" and Kirk's apparent disregard for his, or your bike. Kirk's also responsible for the "flip the seat quick release" variation and other aberrations. Full Contact SHARK is just that. Enjoy it before you send your frame up to Weiler's or buy a new ride. We've also tried team SHARK, tag-team SHARK, and others that escape me now.

Hopefully there will be quasi-organized shark tournaments at area events this season. (If you ask me, "quasi" is organized enough!) Note To Promoters: I'm available (but expensive) for consultation. So - get out there and play SHARK. (It's OK to make that "JAWS" music with your mouth) and have fun! Technical Questions? Call the SHARK hotline, (616) 396-6084, and I'll try to help. (i.e. -make it up as we go.)

1988 Michigan Mountain Bike Buyers Guide

You may want to keep you eyes peeled come the end of April because we're trying to put together a 1988 Michigan Mountain Bike Buyer's Guide. We will be contacting over 100 bike shops in Michigan and asking them to list what mountain bikes they have in stock and in what frame sizes (over \$400 range; as of April 1). Now you can shop for just the RIGHT bike without leaving home! (Ed. providing we get enough responses from the bike shops...Lord help us if they ALL respond!!

Trail Talk

by Steve Pruett

DEATHBARS (dēth'bärs) (n.) 1. Chrome handlebars of the generic variety possessing no identifying markings except "Cro-mo" and "Made in Taiwan". This insidious device has a propensity for failure at a time when the most possible damage can be inflicted to the owners body. (Refer to K. Nowak, only known survivor of said failure.) 2. Aluminum city bike bars with a rise of no less than 5 inches and a 25° sweep. These also tend to fail at the most inopportune times. 3. Handlebars with sharp ends which invariably poke through the end of your grips somehow and then gouge you in the pelvis when your front end crabs on a steep sandy downhill.

SLING SHOT Pat Pend



Greendale Bicycle Co.
SLING SHOT
41 Commerce S.W.
Grand Rapids, Mi. 49503
616-451-9828

Strong Mountain Cyclery
SLING SHOT WEST
#15 W. Mendocino St.
Willits, Ca. 95490
707-459-9163

The Ride Connection

Need someone to train with for the next mountain bike race? Interested in hooking up with a few people who ride trails in your area? Bike clubs, do you have an "off-road" group? Let us know who you are!

If you ride trails on a frequent basis with a friend or two, we have heard from fat-tire flyers who are interested in joining you. Drop us a postcard with info on where, what time, serious or fun, a contact person and phone number. If you live out in the boondocks and you're looking for someone to ride with, send your name, area you're from, and phone number...who knows who you'll meet!

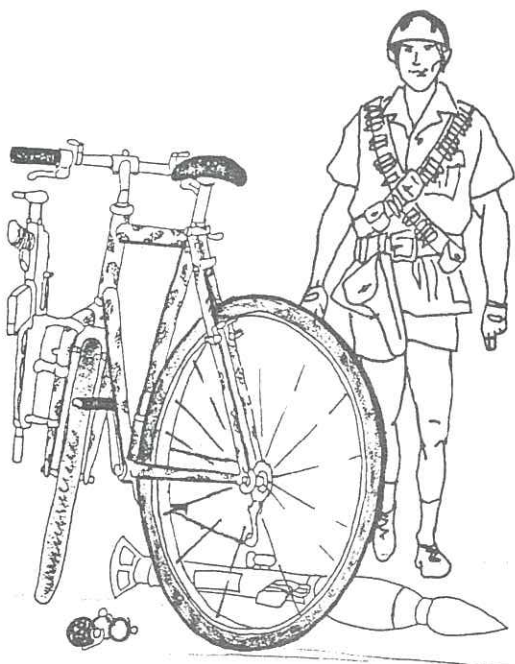
For example:

.....Every Saturday morning, weather permitting, our shop features a mountain bike ride to the (fill in the blank) Recreation Area, which is ideal for biking. Your bike shop, city, and phone number.

.....Mountain Biking couple looking for others interested in quiet, scenic touring during summer months on weekend afternoons in Grand Rapids area. Contact (Him & Her) at XXX-XXXX (5-10 PM).

.....YOURTOWN Off-Road Bike Club, Real gonzo's out for a good time every Sunday morning at 6 AM. Meet at (fill in the blank) Bike shop, YOUR TOWN, Mi. Contact (yourname) at XXX-XXXX.

.....Looking for training partner, must be able to out-sprint 1000 lb. Yorkshire sow and be an accomplished mud rider. An expert on vintage Schwinn repairs (bring own tools). Contact Alpha Bodine, Hooterville, USA, Telephone# -(not yet but we're working on it.)



Riding with Harold just hasn't been the same since the RAMBO Film Festival.

In the Next Issue...

Calendar of Events: We try to stay on top of the latest information and publish everything we've heard about. If you're organizing something as small as a local group ride or as large as a national race, send us information as soon as possible.

Feature Articles: More of whatever shows up in the mailbox and coverage of race events.

Featured Trails: We've hit a snag on this topic, more about it next time.

The Hot Set-Up: (Envision your bike here).

The Ride Connection, Classifieds, Letters to the Editors, pictures, smiles and more...

Arena Cross "Dash For Cash"

On Saturday, February 13, twenty-two riders from around Michigan gathered in the exhaust-filled Stadium Arena in Grand Rapids for an invitational race during the half-time show of the 1988 AMA District 14 Indoor Motocross season opener. The race was put on by Walkway Promotions and Sling Shot as a way to promote mountainbiking to the public.

The race was run in two heats (11 riders per heat) with the top eight riders of each heat moving onto the final race. The races were only one lap, but since the course was a wee bit muddy and rutted, one lap was plenty long. All in all, everyone had a pretty good time. Below are the race results:

HEAT ONE

1. Joel Groendal
2. Jeff Comiskey
3. Dale German
4. Rick Rexford
5. Gordy Bryan
6. Andy Bourn
7. Ron Schuitema
8. Phil Anderson

HEAT TWO

1. Brent Walk
2. Don German
3. Brian Greene
4. Ted Ruys
5. Andy Leifer
6. Glen Rauth
7. Mike Talsma
8. Doug German

MAIN EVENT

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Brent Walk | 7. Don German | 13. Andy Leifer |
| 2. Gordy Bryan | 8. Rick Rexford | 14. Glen Rauth |
| 3. Ted Ruys | 9. Ron Schuitema | 15. Phil Anderson |
| 4. Doug German | 10. Brian Greene | 16. Mike Talsma |
| 5. Joel Groendal | 11. Jeff Comiskey | |
| 6. Dale German | 12. Andy Bourn | |

Sleeping Bear Classic Race Results

We were hoping to publish the entire race results from the 1987 Sleeping Bear Classic. Unfortunately, the results we received were questionable in many areas (like missing participants and incorrect times). Therefore we have decided not to open up this can of worms and hope that you will understand our predicament. If you're really, REALLY, interested, send us a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we'll pass them on to you...eventually.

Calendar of Events

APRIL FOOL'S RIDE!--April 1st (of course). Only for mountain biking fools. Local group ride, informal. Meet at south parking lot of Seidman Park, 12:00 noon. From Grand Rapids take Knapp St. east to Honey Creek, go north to Conservation Rd., turn right and go 1/4 mi. down on left. Potluck picnic afterwards. Shark tournament while we wait for latecomers. Will reschedule to Sat. if it's pouring rain. Call 794-1363 for latest info up till 10 am day of ride.
(NOTE: We think it would be neat if groups all over Michigan organized their own local April Fools Ride. Couldn't be worse than WinterFest...could it?).

TENTATIVE RACES

(Ed. The following events and dates are VERY tentative. Please contact race promoters for more information before showing up completely carbo loaded).

KALAMAZOO MOUNTAIN BIKE SERIES--Late April or May. For more information call: Martin Minka at (616) 345-4524.

MUD SCRAMBLE '88--May 7, Battle Creek. For more information contact:

Gary Goscenski
Bicycle Race Promotions
12276 Beadle Lake Road
Battle Creek, Mi. 49017
(616) 979-4749

PANDO III--May or early June. Brent and Sue will be sending out flyers when things are set.

WEILER CLASSIC--Summer of '88. A mountain biking spectacular unparalleled in scope and grandeur...this will definitely be the hottest race east of the Rockies for years to come. Only one problem, Rick needs lots of help...like 20 or 30 full time volunteers, not to mention enthusiastic and overwhelmingly generous sponsors. Date subject to astrological influences (and how well Rick's ulcers are doing). Ball's in your court Rick.

PRETTY CERTAIN EVENTS

DIRTSTOMPER STAMPEDE--June 4,5. LaCrosse, WI. For more info call Bikes Ltd. at (608) 785-2326.

LOST AND FOUND

Found at WinterFest: one pair of nylon rain pants, an umbrella, and a blue stocking cap. Found at "Dash for Cash" race: a Bio-pace chainring. If you belong to any of these items or know who does, please call: (616) 794-1363.

Classified Ads

For Sale 1987 LOTUS PEGASUS Mt. Bike. 20 inch Frame, Deore XT Gruppo, RM20 Rims, Great Handling Bike. \$475.00

Dave 531-2109 (G.R., Mi.) Evenings.

For Sale BIANCHI SPECIALISSIMA. Columbus SL throughout with CAMPY SUPER RECORD and more, 57cm. New over \$1700, must sacrifice at \$1200. Also Hifly 320 EPOXI Pro Wind Surfer with rig and harness - \$700. Kevin 343-9027 (Kalamazoo, Mi.)

Just for clarification, we would like to keep classified ads open to any personally owned items related to Mountain Biking (please, no refrigerators, free kittens, etc...).

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*For Bike Shops & Organizations, 50 cents @ copy. (see pg.2)

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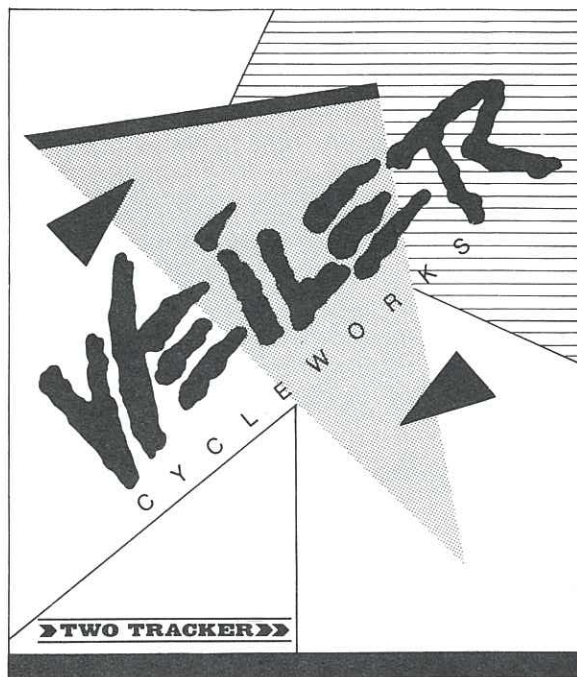
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